



## ***Embassy of the United States of America***

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Sierra Leone Police Graduate from USAID/ICITAP Training Program**

(FREETOWN, SIERRA LEONE) – Thirty-nine officers of the Sierra Leone Police (SLP) graduated January 18 from training led by the United States. The officers spent up to two weeks completing curriculum writing, ethics and values, and investigative techniques courses.

The innovative training program will not only benefit the officers who graduated but will also reach an even larger number of officers. The U.S. Department of Justice International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program (DOJ/ICITAP) specifically designed the courses using a train-the-trainer approach. ICITAP worked with nine SLP master instructors to train 14 instructors at the Hastings Police Training School and 16 officers from the Criminal Investigation Division. The training strategy involved creating and delivering six micro-training modules that the graduating officers can replicate at police stations throughout Sierra Leone during regular police morning parades (roll call). The modules promote respect for values and ethics and include traditional training focused on more effective and humane investigative methodologies. In addition to lectures, each module is no longer than 30 minutes and incorporates several teaching techniques like role play, questioning, and scenarios.

U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone Michael Owen presented certificates of completion to the officers at an awards ceremony held at the United States Embassy in Freetown. Ambassador Owen thanked IGP Munu for engaging in a law enforcement development program that constituted a true partnership between the U.S. and Sierra Leone. “The Sierra Leone Police have an extremely important role to play and it’s not a very easy role, as I am sure you know. You are the first line of defense in a democratic society,” Ambassador Owen said. He went on to say that police officers require proper training and resources, and noted that the just concluded training program is one cost-effective model the police can use.

SLP Inspector General of Police (IG) Francis Munu expressed appreciation for the U.S. Embassy’s effort to strengthen governance in Sierra Leone and highlighted some key training that the U.S. provided to the police. IG Munu called on the graduates to use the training productively. “We hope that your performance henceforth will continuously improve and be able to influence the lives of others, particularly those [with whom] you will be serving,” he said.

On November 14, 2011, USAID, ICITAP, and the SLP launched a \$585,000 elections security program. Three different ICITAP police advisors worked with SLP counterparts to develop and implement a similar innovative strategy that focused on micro-training, peace concerts, and

photographic posters to educate police and citizens about what the SLP should do around the elections. ICITAP police advisors also worked with SLP master instructors to develop nine micro-training modules (ranging from 10-30 minutes) that were presented at morning parades throughout the country in the lead-up to the elections. The training that concluded this month followed this successful elections security program.

In addition to providing the training, the U.S. government donated a variety of equipment that will help the SLP continue to develop its training capacity. Items included two laptop computers, computer software, two projectors, a printer, a video camera, and training curricula.

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